

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 OIC-04

RSR-01 /183 W

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R 281636 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7241

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1503

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ETRD EC GATT

SUBJ: JUNE 25-26 EC COUNCIL MEETING: ARTICLE XXIV:6

REF: THE HAGUE 2885

1. SUMMARY. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FONOFF OFFICIALS DEPUTY UNDER SECY
AGERUP AND ERIK HAUGE (LATTER ATTENDED COUNCIL MEETING) , ECON
COMOFF WAS GIVEN SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC INTERPRETATION OF
RESULTS COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS ON ARTICLE XXIV:6 THAN INDICATED
REFTEL.

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FOLLOWING IS DANISH VERSION: FRENCH WERE VERY DIFFICULT INDEED BUT IN SUBSTANCE, IF NOT IN APPEARANCE, GAVE IN TO MAJORITY VIEW THAT SOME WAY MUST BE FOUND TO GET DOWN TO EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH US. FRENCH TOOK POSITION THAT IT IS COMMISSION AND NOT COUNCIL WHICH SHOULD PROPOSE CHANGE IN DECEMBER MANDATE. THEIR INSISTENCE THAT COMMISSION SUBMIT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR NEW MANDATE TO NEXT COUNCIL MEETING PERMITS, BY DANISH INTERPRETATION, COMMISSION TO ENGAGE IN TALKS WITH WHOMEVER THEY CHOOSE TO ARRIVE AT NEW PROPOSAL. THESE TALKS, AS THE DANES UNDERSTAND, COULD BE HELD IN ANY MANNER MUTUALLY DECIDED SO LONG AS THEY ARE NOT LABELED " OFFICIAL". END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO DANES, COUNCIL ALSO DECIDED THAT COMMISSION IS TO PROCEED WITH PREPARATION OF NEW DRAFT MANDATE WITH ADVICE OF 113 COMMITTEE. AGERUP IS NOW CHAIRMAN OF THIS COMMITTEE AND HAS CALLED FOR MEETING NEXT MONDAY. THIS MAY HAVE TO BE DELAYED BECAUSE SOME COUNTRIES HAVE INDICATED THEY CANNOT ATTEND ON THAT DATE. AGERUP EXPECTS THAT, AT THIS MEETING, HOPEFULLY HELD SOME TIME NEXT WEEK, 113 COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO RECONFIRM TO COMMISSION ITS FREEDOM TO ENGAGE IN UNOFFICIAL TALKS WITH NO, OR MINIMUM, RESTRICTIONS. AGERUP WAS VERY CONFIDENT THAT HIS ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IS CORRECT AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES OF 113 COMMITTEE GIVING COMMISSION GO- AHEAD SIGNAL ON " UNOFFICIAL" EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH US AND OTHERS . HE ADMITTED THAT FRENCH COULD ONCE AGAIN TAKE HARD LINE WHEN COMMISSION SUBMITS DRAFT MANDATE AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING BUT THINKS THIS RISK IS WORTH TAKING. IN THIS REGARD, HAUGE NOTED THAT ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR US TO CIRCULATE REQUEST LIST WHICH FRENCH WOULD BE CERTAIN TO DISAPPROVE.

3. DANES HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO LIVE WITH " UNOFFICIAL" TECHNIQUE OF EXPLORATORY TALKS. THEY VISUALIZE SCENARIO AS FOLLOWS: BALL IS IN EC COURT BUT COMMISSION WILL PROBABLY NOT WANT TO TAKE INITIATIVE UNTIL AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH 113 COMMITTEE. IF ALL GOES WELL AT THAT MEETING, EC NEGOTIATORS WILL CONTACT US REPS IN GENEVA AND PROPOSE " UNOFFICIAL" TALKS IN SOME FORM YET TO BE DECIDED.

4. COMMENT. WE CHECKED THIS VERSION SEVERAL TIMES WITH DANES WHO FEEL CONFIDENT THEIR INTERPRETATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

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VIABLE.

ONLY PROBLEM THEY SEE IS OUTSIDE POSSIBILITY FRENCH WOULD GET OBSTREPEROUS IN 113 COMMITTEE BUT THEY FEEL BEST WAY TO AVOID THIS AND TO PERMIT GETTING ON WITH EXPLORATORY TALKS IS TO KEEP EVERYTHING AS VAGUE AND AMORPHOUS AS POSSIBLE. THEY RECOGNIZE US MIGHT FIND SUCH SITUATION LESS THAN FULLY SATISFACTORY BUT BELIEVE AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVES WOULD BE MUCH WORSE. THEY NOTED

ALSO THAT, QUITE ASIDE FROM FRENCH POSITION, THERE IS GOOD TACTICAL LOGIC TO PROCEEDING IN THIS MANNER. IF COUNCIL HAD GIVEN REVISED MANDATE TO COMMISSION AT LAST MEETING, ITS CONTENTS WOULD SOON HAVE BECOME PUBLIC AND REDUCED FLEXIBILITY OF EC NEGOTIATORS.
DUNNIGAN

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